

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

FARM AND HOME

ADVERTISER

WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE

UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS #396 OK

CHICAGO OUTLET 12:15 P.M. WMAQ - BLUE

(TIME)

(JULY 26, 1940)

DATE

(FRIDAY)

DAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

1. ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers

2. MUSIC: Ranger Song

3. ANNOUNCER: The combination of wind, heat, and low humidity, has left our
4. great western forests tinder dry. Danger of forest fires starting is
5. extremely high and in some sections -- particularly in the dry Pacific
6. Northwest, fires have wrought havoc already. Flames striking at the
7. little logging settlement of West Timber, Oregon, destroyed twelve of
8. the fifteen homes there. And at another place where a farmhouse was
9. caught in the path of the flames three small children were cremated.
10. These are only two instances. In addition to human suffering the
11. loss in timber, property and young forests for future cutting is
12. enormous. And folks, it's a deplorable fact that most of this suffering
13. and tremendous loss to American people and American forests is directly
14. due to the carelessness, thoughtlessness and even downright maliciousness
15. of other American citizens. It's true --- large numbers of fires are
16. started by lightning but the worst fires, the fires that destroy most
17. human lives and property are often started by other human beings. The
18. United States Forest Service and state and private foresters tell us that
19. this summer gives promise of being one of the worst fire seasons in our
20. history. So folks--regardless of where you are -- whether you live in
21. the South, in the East, in the Middle West or out there in the West next
22. door to the forest -- remember this is a particularly dangerous season
23. and take warning. Whatever you do when you go on your vacation, don't
24. take a chance with fire in or anywhere near the forest. Break your
25. match, use your ash tray drown your campfire, watch out for fire bugs

(MORE)

1. ANNOUNCER: (CONTINUED)

2. and be sure that everyone else in your party does the same.
3. If you see a fire starting try to put it out or report it to the nearest
4. ranger station immediately.

5. Well, out on the Pine Cone National Forest our old friend
6. Ranger Jim Robbins has had his hands full fighting fire, too. Day before
7. yesterday a dry lightning storm passed over the Pine Cone District and
8. set twenty-one fires in less than an hour's time. In the emergency the
9. Pine Cone Ranger Station has become a hive of activity with the telephone
10. and radio crackling with reports and orders continuously. So let's look
11. in now and see what's going on. Here's Ranger Jim on the telephone
12. talking to Bert Ellsworth, the Forest Supervisor in Willow Glen right
13. now.

14. JIM: (IN TELEPHONE - FADING IN) Uh huh. I know, Bert. I've
15. already told the lookouts to get out of their cabins and patrol up and
16. down the ridgetops, but what we need is an airplane patrol. The drift
17. smoke from those fires over west and our local fires here has cut our
18. visibility to almost zero. If we had a plane we could scout out the
19. blind spots and be sure. And I'd like to have somebody take a good
20. look at that fire over there on that private land next to us too....
21. Huh?....No...no that's not a lightning fire ... it started from a
22. camper's fire before the lightning came over...Yep...yeah, I know it's
23. s'posed to be under control but I understand there's not many men left
24. on it to mop it up, and if the wind comes up today she's liable to blow
25. up again and go high, wide an' handsome....Uh huh...Well I sure think

(MORE)

JIM: (CONTINUED) it'd be well'worthwhile. You'll call the regional office about gettin' a plane an' let me know?... Okay... okay Bert. S'long.

SOUND OF RECEIVER ON HOOK

BESS: (COMING UP) Here's the coffee you wanted, Jim. But don't you think you'd better lie down and rest a little bit and let me answer the phone?

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well not that I think you couldn't take over here, Bess. But if I lie down I'd be so sound asleep in a minute you couldn't wake me in a week....No, if the coffee holds out I think I can hang on yet today.

BESS: Is Bert going to send an airplane to patrol over the district?

JIM: I've asked him to. If we don't get a plane patrol we're liable to run up against a lot worse situation than we have now. It's these fires we can't see if there are any... that're bothering me now.

BESS: Is there enough cream there for your coffee, Jim? If there isn't I'll....

JIM: No Bess, don't bother any more ... I'd rather have it black anyhow... the blacker the better....U-m-m-m. That's just what I needed.

BESS: What you need is a good night's sleep, Jim Robbins. You haven't had your clothes off for 48 hours.

1. JIM: That's all right Bess. I grabbed a few cat-naps there on
2. the cot last night.
3. BESS: Jim, if they do send a plane you won't have to fly will you?
4. JIM: (CHUCKLES) I hadn't figured on it but you never can tell.
5. If they don't have a man to send from the regional office...
6. BESS: Well, I certainly hope they do send some one. That's one
7. thing I don't want you to do.
8. JIM: What scout fires from a plane?
9. BESS: Yes. There's danger enough fighting fire on the ground.
10. And the thought of you flying over these fires just frightens
11. me sick. Why some one hasn't been killed ...
12. JIM (CHUCKLES) You know Bess, the pilots that fly our planes are
13. good men, trained in this mountain flying.
14. BESS: But if anything should happen to one of those planes while
15. it was up in the air
16. SOUND OF TELEPHONE RINGING
17. JIM: Oooop. There's the phone again. That's Jack Rose up on
18. Skookum Butte, I bet.
19. BESS: I certainly hope it's not another fire.
20. SOUND OF RECEIVER DOWN
21. JIM: (IN TELEPHONE) Ranger Station.
22. VOICE: (FILTER MIKE) Jim, I just got back to the lookout from patrolin'
23. down the ridge over towards that Bear Mountain fire and it sure
24. looks like the smoke is awful thick over there. I couldn't
25. see anything for sure but

CRACKLE OF RADIO

JIM: H^Uld on a minute, Jack. I think there's a message coming through on the radio.

JERRY:(FILTER) SP three two calling M one o ... SP three two calling M one o... Go ahead one-o if you can hear me.

JIM: (IN TELEPHONE) Yeah, wait a minute Jack. I got a call coming in here on the radio from Jerry. He's over there close to that fire and may have some dope on it. Keep your eye peeled and call me back.

(HANGS UP)

JERRY: (FILTER) SP three-two calling M one-o, SP three-two calling M one-o. Go ahead one-o if you can hear me.

(CLICK OF SWITCH)

JIM: (IN RADIO) Okay, I got you Jerry. Go ahead.

(CLICK....CLICK SHOULD SOUND BETWEEN EACH CHANGE FROM JIM TO JERRY THROUGH FOLLOWING)

JERRY: (FILTER) Jim, the Bear Mountain fire has blown up. She's boomin' big clouds of smoke and seems to be comin' this way fast. I'm down here at Crawford's ranch. There's fifteen men with me. It's a bad spot and Crawford's wife and two kids are here too. The fire's gonna run this afternoon and nothing under the sun will stop it. I wanted to send Crawford's wife and kids down the creek but they don't want to leave here. It's a pretty good size clearing here and with the creek if we had some pumps we might be able to save the buildings. What do you think we'd better do here? Go ahead Jim.

1. BESS: Oh Jim, does that mean they're trapped?

2. JIM: Sounds bad, Bess. (TO RADIO) How fast is the fire

3. traveling, Jerry? Where's Dick Crawford? Do you think

4. you've got time to get out of there or do you think your

5. chances are better if you stay there? Go ahead, Jerry.

6. JERRY: (FILTER) Can't tell from here just how fast the fire is

7. traveling, Jim. Dick Crawford's one of the men in my

8. crew. He thinks it would be better to stay here. He

9. wants to try and save his buildings. He's roundin' up

10. what stock he's got here and gettin' 'em in the barn now.

11. It's a trail chance out of here and if we start out now

12. there's no tellin' what we might run into. And the men

13. are bushed. They've been fightin' fire all yesterday and

14. last night and they're all done in. I think we better

15. stay here. If you can just get us some pumps I think we

16. can pull through. Get a plane and get us some pumps and

17. hose. How about it? Go ahead.

18. JIM: Okay Jerry. Stay where you are. We'll get the pumps to

19. you as soon as we can. Backfire wherever you can or

20. wherever you think it's safe and keep me informed.

21. JERRY: (FILTER) Okay Jim.

22. JIM: Quick Bess, call Slim. He's down at the corral with his

23. mules. Have him get those two portable pumps and all the

24. hose we've got out of the warehouse and down to our

25. emergency landing field. Tell him to take the truck.

1. BESS: (GOING OFF) All right, Jim.
2. SOUND OF TELEPHONE RINGING AND RECEIVER OFF THE HOOK
3. JIM: Hello...Who? Bert?...Good, I was just going to call you.
4. What about that plane from the regional office?...Good
5. boy! We've got to contact 'em byradio and get 'em to
6. stop here... Huh? He was gonna stop anyway? What for?...
7. Oh...Huh? Sure I'll go. I wanted to any way...That's
8. all the better. I got some pumps here to take along.
9. We're in a tight spot. (FADING) The Bear Mountain fire
10. has blown-up again. Jerry and fifteen men are.....
11. MUSIC UP AND OUT
12. SOUND OF AIRPLANE MOTOR IDLING, BACK
13. JIM: Now don't worry, Bess. We'll get these pumps to Jerry
14. and soon be back here safe and sound.
15. BESS: But Jim, do you have to go in the plane? Couldn't some...
16. JIM: It'll be all right, Bess. Jerry's in a tight spot and we've
17. got to help him out. You stay on the telephone at the
18. Station and handle things for me while I'm gone....
19. So long, Bess.
20. BESS: Goodbye, Jim. I ... I'll take care of things.
21. JIM: (SLIGHTLY OFF) Okay, Dick. Let 'er go.
22. SOUND OF PLANE MOTOR UP AND PLANE TAKING OFF... HOLD TO FADE
23. SLIGHT PAUSE
24. SOUND OF PLANE IN AIR BACK
25.

1. JIM: (FADING IN) Hope I can get Jerry with this radio...
2. T-twelve calling SP three-two. This is Jim in the plane,
3. Jerry. Come in if you can hear me. Go ahead.
4. CRACKLE OF RADIO
5. JERRY: (FILTER) Okay Jim. I got you. It's gettin' pretty hot
6. down here. Main fire's comin' this way fast. Hot embers
7. are fallin' here already but we're still okay. Go ahead.
8. JIM: Okay, Jerry. We'll soon be over you. We can see the
9. fire now. There's two pumps and a thousand feet of hose
10. to be dropped down to you by parachute. Get some kind of
11. target out for us to shoot at. Go ahead.
12. JERRY: (FILTER) I can hear the plane now Jim, but I still can't
13. see you. We'll put a white sheet out in the pasture next
14. to the barn for you to shoot at but you'll have to come
15. down awfully low to see it. Smoke's thick as a fog.
16. We're standing by....
17. JIM: (AIRPLANE MOTOR UP FOR A SECOND) The ranch lies right over
18. that next hump, Dick, down in the valley...Are we going to
19. be able to get low enough down? This smoke's bad.
20. DICK: It's takin' a chance, Jim, going down in there.
21. JIM: There's fifteen men down there, Dick, and only two of us.
22. DICK: All right, it'll be pretty rough, Jim, but we'll get the
23. stuff down... There, we're over the hump. Whoo, boy, this
24. smoke is bad. Can't see the ranch from here at all.
25.

1. JIM: Go down and a little to the right.

2. SOUND OF PLANE MOTOR UP AND DOWN

3. JIM: See it, Dick, there's the clearing. You can just barely

4. see that white sheet down there by the barn.

5. JERRY: (FILTER) Hello Jim...

6. JIM: (TO PILOT) Jerry's calling us again....

7. JERRY: (FILTER) We can see you now, Jim. Don't take time for a

8. wind test. Put the pumps down the first time around.

9. We've got to have 'em right now...

10. JIM: Okay Jerry. We've got the target spotted and we're coming

11. in now. Stand by.....

12. DICK: I'll give you the word when the pumps should go overboard,

13. Jim.

14. JIM: Okay Dick.

15. DICK: All ready....Now.

16. JIM: (GRUNTS) There they go.... Looks like we undershot the

17. target a little but they'll hit the clearing.

18. DICK: Yeah. The wind's even stronger than I calculated it

19. was. Next time around we'll wait a little longer.

20. SOUND OF MOTOR UP AS PLANE CLIMBS AND DOWN AS IT GOES AWAY CIRCLING BACK

21. JERRY: (FILTER) Hello Jim...You undershot the target, Jim, but

22. the pumps are down okay. Sparks are gettin' thicker.

23. Hurry the hose.

24.

25.

1. JIM: Okay Jerry. We've got a better idea of the wind drift now.
2. Here we come with the hose....
3. SOUND OF MOTOR UP BRIEFLY
4. DICK: Ready Jim?
5. JIM: Say when.
6. DICK: All right...Let 'er go.
7. JIM: (GRUNTS) They're overboard, Dick (SLIGHTLY OFF) Whooo.
8. this smoke's thicker'n (COUGHS) A pea soup fog.
9. DICK: Yeah. We're gonna have to get up and out of here, quick.
10. SOUND OF PLANE CLIMBING AND FADING AWAY BACK
11. JERRY: (FILTER) Good boy Jim. The hose hit the target right on
12. the nose. We've got the pumps set up already and we'll
13. have the hose hooked up in a minute....
14. JIM: They're working fast down there....We've got one more trip
15. around, Dick. There's still a can of gasoline to go down.
16. DICK: Okay Jim, but this smoke's gettin' awful bad.
17. SOUND OF MOTOR UP AS SHIP COMES IN AGAIN
18. JIM: All set to bail out the extra fuel for those pumps?
19. DICK: Yep. Get ready, Jim.
20. JIM: Ready.
21. DICK: Now. Let 'er go.
22. JIM: There she goes. (COUGHS) It's up to Jerry and the boys
23. on the ground now.
24. SOUND OF PLANE ROARING AS IT CLIMBS AND THEN FADES DOWN. BACK
25. JIM: Ah boy. Fresh air and the good old blue sky again.

1. DICK: Yeah. And that's where I want to stay. I got to hand it
2. to you, Ranger, for not bein' scared down there. You don't
3. know how close we came to foldin' up a couple times and
4. hittin' the ground. Those hot air currents were bad.

5. JIM: (CHUCKLES) Reckon I didn't have time to be scared
6. Wait, Jerry's coming in again....

7. JERRY: (FILTER) Hello Jim... Hello Jim. The pumps are both
8. working, Jim. The wind seems to have shifted a little and
9. I believe the fire here in the clearing is cooling down.
10. We've got things under control here now. Plenty of water
11. to keep the roofs of the buildings wet down. Pretty smoky
12. but we're all okay. Tell that pilot he can fly for me
13. any time. I gotta sign off now but I'll keep you advised.
14. So-long.

15. JIM: (CHUCKLES) Guess old Jerry's been so busy he hasn't had
16. time to be scared either, the way he sounds. They were in
17. a mighty tight spot down there. If it weren't for the
18. airplane....

19. SOUND OF PLANE MOTOR MISSING, SPITTING, AND CHOKING BACK

20. JIM: What's that Dick?

21. DICK: I don't know. Motor seems to be going bad.

22. JIM: H-m-m...No place down there to land, Dick.

23. DICK: Couldn't even see it if there was a place to land.

24. JIM: Anything we can do?

25.

1. DICK: I'm doin'all I can Jim. All you can do is sit tight and
2. pray.
3. MOTOR SPURTS UP BRIEFLY
4. JIM: We're headed right toward that fire, Dick.
5. DICK: Maybe we can coast out of the way of the fire, Jim, but
6. (FADE) if we come down in this rough country we won't
7. much care where. It looks mighty bad.
8. FADE MOTOR SPUTTERING AND MISSING WORSE ALL THE TIME
9. MUSIC: FINALE
10. ANNOUNCER: Over a forest fire, and the airplane motor missing...it's
11. a tight spot that Jim is in as Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers
12. are signed off today. Listen in again next Friday. Uncle
13. Sam's Forest Rangers come to you on the Friday National
14. Farm and Home Hour as a presentation of the National
15. Broadcasting System with the cooperation of the United
16. States Forest Service.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22. SR: 3:30 P.M.-7/24/40
23.
24.
25.

